

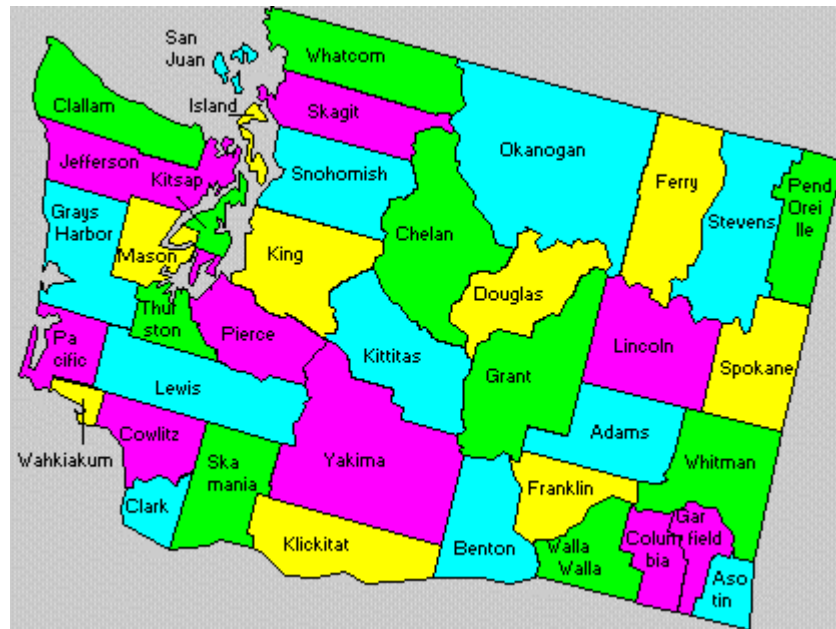
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Washington

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Washington

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 5,894,121 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 81.8% white (non-Hispanic); 3.2% black; 5.5% Asian; 1.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.4% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; 3.9% other; 3.6% two or more races; 7.5% Hispanic
- Percent of population below poverty level (1997 estimate): 10.2%

Politics²

- Governor: Gary Locke (D)
- Lt. Governor: Brad Owen
- Attorney General: Christine O. Gregoire
- Secretary of State: Sam Reed
- U.S. Senators: Maria Cantwell (D); Patty Murray (D)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-9, respectively): Jay Inslee (D); Richard Larson (D); Brian Baird (D); Doc Hastings (R); George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (R); Norman D. Dicks (D); Jim McDermott (D); Jennifer Dunn (R); Adam Smith (D).

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
Designated in 1997, the Northwest HIDTA is responsible for the following Washington counties: King, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima. Drug threats in this area include heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana and cocaine. "Nazi" type methamphetamine labs are proliferating throughout the region. The importation of Mexican black tar heroin supplies by drug trafficking organizations remains at high levels, and the prices remain low.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁴
 - Tacoma: The target area for the City of Tacoma Weed and Seed site is Central Tacoma (known as Hilltop), the downtown area, and the lower eastside of the city. The primary goal of this Weed and Seed site is to measurably reduce the prevalence of violent crime, drug trafficking, auto theft, and gang activity.
 - There are additional Weed and Seed sites located in Lakewood, Seattle (Central), SE Seattle, and Toppenish.
- The Governor's Council on Substance Abuse⁵
This initiative was established by an executive order in 1994 in response to the significant human, social and economic costs substance abuse inflicts on individuals, families and communities in Washington State. Council members include private industries, local and tribal governments, treatment providers, community groups, educators and law enforcement. State government is represented on the Council by the directors of the seven state agencies providing substance abuse programs and one legislator for each Caucus of the House and Senate. This Council is responsible for working with State and local agencies and communities to develop common

substance abuse reduction goals and advising the Governor on substance abuse issues by providing recommendations for policy, program and research strategies.

- FY 2001 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees awarded funding from ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):⁶
 - \$100,000 to the Adams County Community Network Coalition, Othello
 - \$99,634 to the Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition, Kelso
 - \$89,449 to the Kittitas County Substance Abuse Coalition, Ellensburg
 - \$100,000 to the Oak Harbor Prevention Coalition, Oak Harbor
 - \$100,000 to the United Communities Coalition Project, Pierce County

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In 2000, the Washington State Patrol arrested 5,024 people for drug offenses. This is up from 4,893 in 1999. The Patrol also conducted 588 drug evaluations on drivers during 2000.⁷
- There were a total of 42,681 arrests for drug abuse violations in Washington during 2000.⁸

Arrests in Washington, Selected Offenses, 1998-2000

Offense	1998	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	130	120	138
Forcible rape	684	712	674
Robbery	1,422	1,349	1,339
Aggravated assault	5,002	4,963	5,041
Burglary	5,795	5,548	5,155
Larceny-Theft	29,564	28,987	27,287
Motor vehicle theft	1,771	2,292	2,183
Arson	362	375	411
Drug abuse violations	17,233	19,692	42,681
Driving under the influence	17,011	29,919	28,718
Liquor laws	14,183	15,757	15,138
Drunkenness	96	57	30

- During 1999, 65.9% of adult male and 69.8% of adult female arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of their offense in Seattle.⁹

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, Seattle, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	28.3	16.7	41.7	30.6	10.6	2.8	1.7	0.0	59.4	44.4
Property	40.1	55.2	37.0	27.6	10.4	5.7	1.6	0.0	74.0	71.3
Drug	48.0	65.9	49.6	34.1	15.4	24.4	2.4	2.4	85.4	95.1
Prostitution	37.5	72.4	12.5	20.7	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	62.5	82.8
Other	30.7	48.7	37.2	29.5	9.3	14.1	1.6	1.3	63.5	70.5
Total	33.4	48.2	39.0	28.4	9.0	9.5	1.5	0.9	65.9	69.8

- Among adult male and female arrestees in Spokane, 62.1% and 70.5%, respectively, tested positive for drugs at the time of the arrest.¹⁰
- 91.9% of the adult males arrested for drug offenses tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests.¹¹

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, Spokane, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	13.1	20.0	43.6	30.9	9.7	16.4	1.9	0.0	54.4	52.7
Property	26.4	31.8	42.9	29.5	26.4	40.9	2.1	0.0	66.4	79.5
Drug	32.2	43.9	58.4	36.8	45.0	47.4	2.7	1.8	91.9	94.7
Prostitution	----	66.7	----	0.0	----	0.0	----	0.0	----	66.7
Other	15.6	30.0	42.2	33.3	18.4	28.3	1.9	5.0	60.3	73.3
Total	17.6	30.6	43.5	32.4	20.1	26.6	1.6	2.3	62.1	70.5

Drugs

- According to the 1998 Washington Needs Assessment Household Survey (WANAHS), 1,692,829 adults in Washington have used illicit drugs at least once in their lifetime.¹²

Estimates of Substance Use, Entire Adult Population, 1998*

	Cases	Rate
Alcohol		
Lifetime Use of Alcohol	3,849,864	92.4
Past 18-Month Use of Alcohol	2,991,651	71.8
Past 30-Day Use of Alcohol	2,327,576	55.9
Illicit Drugs		
Lifetime Use of Any Illicit Drug	1,692,829	40.6
Past 12-Month Use of Any Illicit Drug	428,627	10.3
Past 30-Day Use of Any Illicit Drug	216,518	5.2
Marijuana		
Lifetime Use of Marijuana	1,692,829	40.6
Past 12-Month Use of Marijuana	394,323	9.5
Past 30-Day Use of Marijuana	207,812	5.0
Stimulants		
Lifetime Use of Stimulants	700,635	16.8
Past 12-Month Use of Stimulants	84,504	2.0
Past 30-Day Use of Stimulants	36,526	0.9
Cocaine		
Lifetime Use of Cocaine	537,680	12.9
Past 12-Month Use of Cocaine	72,389	1.7
Past 20-Day Use of Cocaine	23,883	0.6

*Includes institutions and group quarters

- Drug data from *Pulse Check* sources:¹³
 - Cocaine – The availability of powder and crack cocaine in Seattle increased from Fall 2000 to Spring 2001. While adolescents are the predominant crack sellers in Seattle, young adults (ages 18-30) and older adults (over age 30) are the predominant users.
 - Heroin – According to law enforcement sources, heroin is widely available in Seattle with heroin use spreading to the suburbs. Some heroin users use additional substances such as benzodiazepines, marijuana, and cocaine. Heroin and powder cocaine are sometimes injected simultaneously, and heroin and crack are sometimes smoked sequentially.
 - Marijuana – Sources indicate that marijuana is sometimes laced with or dipped in embalming fluid.
 - Methamphetamine – Young adults (ages 18-30) are the most likely age group to use methamphetamine in Seattle.
- Meth labs are no longer just an urban problem in Washington State. The meth problem is spreading to rural areas, like Benton County, where 38 labs were discovered in 1999 and 19 labs were discovered in the first quarter of 2000. The price of meth has remained stable in the region over recent years with large quantities selling for \$560 to \$860 per ounce, depending upon quality, and smaller 1/4 grams selling for \$25-\$35, and \$80- \$120 per gram (35-90% purity).¹⁴

Juveniles

- In Seattle during 1999, almost half (48.6%) of high school students surveyed had tried marijuana at least one time in their lifetime.

Percent High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Seattle, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	47.5%	49.6%	48.6%
Current Marijuana Use (2)	26.3	25.8	26.2
Lifetime Inhalant Use	9.0	8.0	8.7
Current Inhalant Use	2.5	2.4	2.6
Lifetime Heroin Use	3.1	2.1	2.8
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	6.9	6.0	6.7
Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use (3)	0.7	1.6	1.4

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life

2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey

3. Used a needle to inject drugs

- Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) provides preventive, rehabilitative, residential and transition programs for juvenile offenders. The goals are to hold these juveniles accountable for their crimes, protect the public and reduce recidivism. Approximately 82% of youth committed to JRA are drug involved.¹⁵
- There were a total of 5,739 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Washington during 2000. This is an increase of 3,007 from 1999.

Juvenile (under 18) Arrests, Washington, 1998-2000

Offense	1998	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	20	16	19
Forcible rape	133	152	152
Robbery	487	407	386
Aggravated assault	1,075	1,107	1,018
Burglary	2,685	2,412	2,072
Larceny-Theft	12,715	11,708	10,844
Motor vehicle theft	891	1,083	912
Arson	234	228	252
Drug abuse violations	2,429	2,732	5,739
Driving under the influence	308	515	500
Liquor laws	4,675	5,290	4,914
Drunkenness	16	14	5

Trafficking and Seizures

- Smuggling at the U.S./Canadian border is on the increase. Potent Canadian-grown marijuana is in demand throughout the U.S. creating cross-border smuggling events.
- Shipments of Asian heroin often transit through Puget Sound's commercial port facilities with ultimate distribution in U.S. cities on the eastern seaboard.
- More than 300 small islands provide Washington with 3,026 miles of internal shoreline increasing the maritime smuggling potential. Maritime drug seizures in these waters are on the rise.
- The FY 2000 Northwest HIDTA Threat Assessment identified 60 drug trafficking organizations posing a criminal threat in the seven HIDTA counties.¹⁶
- During 2000, there were 26,851 marijuana plants eradicated under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.¹⁷

Number of Marijuana Plants Seized and Eradicated, Washington, 2000

	Number
Outdoor Operations	
Plots eradicated	91
Cultivated plants eradicated	8,282
Indoor Operations	
Grows seized	140
Plants eradicated	18,569
Total Plants Eradicated	26,851

- There were also 165 arrests made and 222 weapons seized as a result of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. \$2,997,627 in assets was also seized under this program in 2000.¹⁸
- The Washington Department of Ecology tracks all responses to meth labs statewide. This department's data shows a steadily increasing number of illegal drug labs statewide from 1990 when just 38 illegal labs were reported, to 1999 when 789 illegal

drug labs were reported. More than 40% (318) of the meth labs reported in 1999 were in the urban area of Pierce County. Pierce County's Executive has estimated the county budget is \$1 million per year for fighting meth problems in Pierce County. Not even the more populous King County, with 107 meth labs reported in 1999, comes close to the level of meth labs reported for Pierce County. From January 1 to March 31, 2000, the Department of Ecology received reports of 362 illegal labs across the State.¹⁹

Enforcement

- The Northwest HIDTA's initiatives blend a variety of law enforcement and demand reduction initiatives into a unitized approach to countering the drug threat in the Pacific Northwest. Some Northwest HIDTA initiatives include:²⁰
 - Northwest HIDTA Border Task Force: This is a multi-agency collocated task force responding to increases in drug smuggling on the U.S./Canadian border. Integrated Border Enforcement Teams were developed and deployed in partnership with Canadian authorities. The initiative also funds a State Prosecutor to handle border arrests requiring State prosecution.
 - Community Coalition Support Initiative: This initiative provides resources to substance abuse prevention coalitions in each Northwest HIDTA county in order to develop a region-wide demand reduction strategy in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and others.
 - Drug Court Development: This initiative provides resources to drug court programs in each Northwest HIDTA county. It coordinates and leverages resources in order to enhance the capacity of such programs to provide individualized treatment and services to chronic, career drug offenders who are to be adjudicated for drug-related crimes.
 - Investigative Support Center: This is a collocated intelligence initiative that brings members from several agencies together in office space provided by DEA. The program's components include full intelligence analyst support on investigations, information research, strategic research on general threat topics or specialized situations, post seizure analysis and document exploitation, critical event deconfliction and the loan of specialized electronic evidence gathering equipment.
- In the seven county area served by the Northwest HIDTA, there are eight Byrne Grant-funded, multi-jurisdictional narcotics task forces. There are also four DEA task forces, and one city/county task force.²¹
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 13,670 full-time law enforcement employees in Washington. Most (9,580) were sworn officers and the rest (4,090) were civilian employees.²²

Courts

- As of August 8, 2001 there were 37 drug courts in Washington that have already been implemented or are being planned. Of these, 16 have been operating for over two years, 4 have recently been implemented, and 17 are being planned.²³
- During FY 2000, 26.4% of Federally sentenced offenders in Washington were drug offenders. The majority of offenses involved marijuana (31.4%) followed by powder

cocaine (26.4%), methamphetamine (23.8%), heroin (10.0%), crack cocaine (5.7%), and substances that don't fall under these categories (2.7%).²⁴

Corrections

- As of October 31, 2001, the Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) population was 15,359.²⁵
- At the end of 2000 (December 31), there were 160,977 adults on probation and 160 adults on parole in Washington.²⁶

Consequences of Use

- During 2000, there were a total of 11,116 emergency department episodes in Seattle.²⁷

Emergency Department Drug Mentions, Seattle, 1997-2000

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Cocaine	2,850	2,399	2,520	3338
Heroin/Morphine	2,922	2,439	2,488	2522
Methamphetamine	479	266	353	540
Marijuana/Hashish	1,663	936	808	1414
Mentions	18,228	13,927	13,861	18,980

- The number of drug related deaths in Seattle remained unchanged at 251 for both 1998 and 1999. The majority of the drug-related deaths during 1999 involved heroin/morphine.²⁸

Number of Drug Mentions by Medical Examiners, Seattle, 1998-1999

Drug Type	1998		1999	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol in combination	113	45.0	77	30.7
Cocaine	78	31.1	88	35.1
Heroin/morphine	156	62.2	140	55.8
Methadone	25	10.0	11	4.4
Methamphetamine/speed	4	1.6	30	12.0

- King County (which includes Seattle) medical examiner data analyzed from 1990-99, indicate that the annual number of opiate overdoses in this county increased 134% (from 47 to 110) during these years.²⁹

Treatment

- During 2000, there were 53,098 drug and alcohol treatment admissions in Washington. The most prevalent illegal drug was marijuana with 9,109 treatment admissions followed by heroin with 6,095 admissions.³⁰

Drug/Alcohol Treatment Admissions, Washington, 2000

Drug Type	Number of Admissions
Alcohol only	10,184
Alcohol with secondary drug	15,365
Heroin	6,095
Cocaine (smoked)	3,311
Cocaine (other route)	1,357
Marijuana/hashish	9,109
Methamphetamine	6,316
Hallucinogens	144
PCP	14
Inhalants	44

- Since 1999, public health measures adopted by city and county government to address the increase in opiate overdose deaths in King County included:³¹
 - 50% increase in methadone treatment slots
 - Improving access to methadone maintenance treatment with a motor-home based clinic
 - Providing preventive and limited substance abuse treatment services in the local criminal justice system.

Sources

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⁷ Washington State Patrol, 2000 *Annual Report*: <http://www.wa.gov/wsp/reports/stats00.htm>

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